



November 6, 2020

I'd like to follow up yesterday's statement regarding non-compliance with contact tracing. We feel it's important to address the topic of penalties for house parties that exede the Governor's Executive Order limiting indoor gatherings to 25 people or 25% capacity.

If the Rutherford Police Department observes violations of the Governor's Executive Order, a fine of up to \$1,000 can be issued and/or up to 6 months in prison according to [this statute](#), Section App.A:9-49 - Violations as disorderly conduct; penalty; prosecution.

There are two issues currently affecting the public health of Rutherford: people allowing crowded house parties, often involving youths, and people refusing to comply with contact tracing.

Unfortunately since this pandemic has moved through society more quickly than the law can catch up with it, there is not a legal penalty for failure to comply with contact tracers.

The strongest tool we have right now to contain this virus is the collective conscience of our residents. People need to voluntarily comply with what we're asking them to do in order to set a good example for their children and be productive members of the community.

As the weekend begins, please consider how the choices you make can affect your community as a whole. Enjoy this beautiful weather responsibly and use it as a reason to safely socialize outside as much as possible.

Sincerely,
Council President
& Police Department Liaison
Tom Mullahey